

Council on Postsecondary Education
November 5, 2001

Executive Summary

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

We bring four academic program recommendations and two other action items for your consideration.

The staff recommends that the council:

- Delegate to the boards of trustees of the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky authority to approve joint or collaborative master's degrees necessary to expedite the accreditation of public health schools by the Council on Education for Public Health and promote public health research.
- Extend approval of the master's degree programs through 2004, while the universities continue to pursue the creation of a single, jointly accredited school of public health.

(For details, see page 89.)

We have reported to you previously on progress in developing cooperative relationships in public health education. The University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky continue to make good progress in this area. The University of Kentucky governs the Kentucky College for Public Health but

cooperative relationships are being developed between programs at the two institutions. In addition, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville have reached agreement on a core set of master's level public health courses that will be offered through the Kentucky Virtual University beginning fall 2002.

Accreditation remains a problem. The Council on Education for Public Health continues to insist that a school of public health be governed by a single institution rather than by two institutions working together. This obstacle remains at a particularly difficult time for Kentucky and the nation. We already know of the substantial public health challenges that exist in Kentucky. Now we and the rest of the nation are threatened by the possibility of diseases and toxic chemicals that are intentionally introduced among us. This raises the need for more research and education in public health. The federal government is responding to this need with increased funding for research, in particular. We should ensure that, as much as possible, Kentucky's research universities can contribute their intellectual resources to this national need. To do that, accreditation (or candidacy for it) is necessary.

For that reason, Presidents John Shumaker of the University of Louisville and Lee Todd of the University of Kentucky and I have quickly developed an agreement that we think is in the best interests of Kentucky and the nation at this time. We propose that you authorize UK and UofL to establish the degree programs that are necessary for both institutions to become accredited and that promote public health research. The programs will be joint or collaborative and the two universities agree that the approvals will extend for three years. During that time, they will work together to persuade the accrediting body to change its position on the requirement that a single university be responsible for a school or college. Copies of my letter summarizing the agreement and the responses of Presidents Shumaker and Todd can be found on pages 91-94.

The universities have the necessary resources to initiate the programs and can do so immediately. They will provide appropriate documentation for council files. But in the interests of rapid response to this new threat to public health, the staff recommends that the council authorize immediate actions by UK and UofL. The two universities have assured us they will act cooperatively and in the best interests of Kentucky and the nation in planning and conducting public health research. Working with Western and Eastern, they will do the same in preparing public health professionals.

The staff recommends that the council approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied and Industrial Mathematics proposed by the University of Louisville. (For details, see page 95.)

Many jobs in the new economy require advanced mathematical skills that are needed for simulations and technology applications. A graduate program in Applied and Industrial Mathematics will be very useful to numerous employers throughout the state.

The staff recommends that the council approve the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science proposed by Morehead State University. (For details, see page 101).

The Office of the New Economy has reported to the presidents and to the Kentucky Innovation Commission that the state needs more graduates prepared to work in computer-related professions. This is especially true in eastern

Kentucky, where Morehead State proposes to address the general shortage of computer professionals and promote economic development.

The staff recommends that the council approve the Bachelor of Science in Nursing proposed by Kentucky State University. (For details, see page 105.)

There is a shortage of nurses, especially those with bachelor's degrees.

Kentucky State proposes to serve a population of associate degree nurses who are ready to return to school for the BSN. No additional funds are requested.

The State Board of Nursing requires that nursing programs have an 85 percent pass rate on licensure examinations. Kentucky State is close to achieving that minimum level in its associate degree program and has filed a plan for continued improvement. If the council approves the BSN proposal, the council staff will monitor the license examination pass rates for both programs.

The staff recommends that the council approve awarding federal Dwight D. Eisenhower Higher Education funds in the amount of \$954,412 for October 1, 2001-September 30, 2003, to support the 16 projects listed on page 113. (For details, see page 111.)

Through the Dwight D. Eisenhower Higher Education Grant Program, the Council on Postsecondary Education makes awards for the professional

development of public school teachers. These awards are primarily, but not exclusively, to colleges and universities. The Eisenhower grants focus on mathematics and science but awards can be made in other areas. This year some of the awards were made for teaching reading.

At its meeting October 15, the Committee on Equal Opportunities requested the council to consider improvements at Kentucky State University that may be related to the state's partnership agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Council members Charles Whitehead, Walter Baker, and Steve Barger met with members of the KSU board and administration to review these and other issues. The council members urged Kentucky State to conduct a thorough programmatic and fiscal review to determine what programs and services the institution should be offering and how it should be allocating its resources. They recommended that the study be conducted by an independent consulting organization selected by mutual agreement of the KSU board and the council. The staff will keep the council informed of developments.

The staff recommends that the council approve the 2002-06 research and development indicators and goals for public universities. (For details, see page 117.)

Dr. William Brundage, commissioner for the New Economy, is completing work on a strategic plan for development of the new economy. Dr. Brundage has worked closely with representatives of the universities (especially the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville) and with business leaders from throughout the state. He, representatives from the universities, and the council staff have agreed on four key indicators and two goals to measure Kentucky's progress in research and development.

The Kentucky Innovation Act, House Bill 572 of the 2000 Session, appropriated \$500,000 to the council to create Regional Technology Corporations. This is the last of the activities for whose administration the council has contracted with the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation. We had intended to bring application criteria to you at this meeting but the strategic plan being developed by Dr. William Brundage, commissioner of the New Economy, includes provisions for a very similar set of organizations called Innovation and Commercialization Centers. Kentucky does not need both Regional Technology Corporations and Innovation and Commercialization Centers. With your approval, we propose to postpone issuing any criteria until the 2002 General Assembly takes action on proposed revisions to House Bill 572, one of which will be to convert the Regional Technology Corporations into the Innovation and Commercialization Centers envisioned by the new economy strategy.